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LETTER DATED 9 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 20 May 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations (S/1997/383), I have the honour to transmit herewith the responses of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to annexes I and II to the letter respectively, as follows:

1. Construction and development of public works on Abu Musa are solely to provide facilities for furthering the welfare of the residents of the island.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its position of principle, as reflected in the letter dated 1 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations (S/1996/818), and continues to believe that it is only through bilateral negotiations that misunderstandings may be resolved. Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran holds that the practice of transmitting, circulating and proliferating letters such as the one referred to above in international organizations could hardly conform to either the spirit of good-neighbourly relations or the requisite good faith and understanding between the two countries; it is a practice which should be desisted from.

2. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran considers any kind of interference in its internal affairs by other States as a violation of the principles of international law and of its national sovereignty and territorial integrity and categorically rejects it.

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid TAKHT-RAVANCHI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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